

Connecting New

June, 2015

Have you wondered why it is that in the Gospel accounts of exorcisms the demons frequently identify Jesus as the Son of God, yet Jesus orders them to remain silent? Have you noticed how often the demons are afraid of being destroyed, yet can you find even one account when Jesus actually did destroy the demon? Have you noticed how we too are often afraid of being destroyed should we become free of what possesses us? This month I share a poem about this dynamic generally, and a painting regarding the healing of the Gerasene Demoniac.

Called Out

There is a power in naming, and connection
in knowing the name of another.
So it follows that those unclean spirits
were connected with Jesus,
and that challenging them in truth and love,
he empowered them to become free -
free of attachment, co-dependence, fear and hate.
Free of self-loathing, hiding and shame.
Free to be themselves, truly themselves.
Didn't you notice, despite their protests, none were actually destroyed?
And so it is with us.
Jesus continues to call us out,
not as unclean and unlovable,
but as unfree and inauthentic.



Two things strike me about the painting. First, the possessed man's sense of being trapped. To the right, there is no escaping Jesus (the figure in green and yellow) and to the left, not only a cliff but also an outcropping of rocks. Second, the man feels torn between accepting the love and freedom offered by Jesus and avoiding the painful truth of his attachment by taking the route over the cliff (notice how the man has one hand facing either direction).

May we all courageously and fully accept the love and freedom offered by God through Christ Jesus.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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